

Message Text

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PAGE 01 JAKART 13144 281004Z

ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-07

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

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FM AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4115

INFO AMCONSUL MEDAN

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

AMCONSUL SURABAYA

C O N F I D E N T I A L JAKARTA 13144

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, SHUM, ID

SUBJECT: ADMIRAL SUDOMO CONFIRMS PLANS FOR RELEASE
OF POLITICAL DETAINEES

1. SUMMARY: KOPKAMTIB CHIEF OF STAFF ADMIRAL SUDOMO DISCUSSED
GOI PROGRAM OF RELEASING POLITICAL DETAINEES WITH REPORTERS
SEPT 26 AND 27, CONFIRMING PLANS FOR THE RELEASE OF 10,000
DETAINEES IN DECEMBER. PROGRAM DETAILS MENTIONED CONTAINED
INFORMATION ON THE RIGHTS OF RELEASEES NOT PREVIOUSLY
ANNOUNCED. END SUMMARY.

2. SPEAKING WITH REPORTERS FOLLOWING SEPT 26 MEETING
WITH CHIEFS OF REGIONAL MILITARY AND POLICE COMMANDS,
KOPKAMTIB CHIEF OF STAFF ADMIRAL SUDOMO STATED THAT PREPARA-
TIONS FOR THE PLANNED RELEASE IN DECEMBER OF 10,000
POLITICAL DETAINEES OF CATEGORY B HAD BEEN COMPLETED.
(CATEGORY B COMPRISES THOSE PERSONS SUSPECTED OF INVOLVE-
MENT IN THE 1965 ABORTIVE COMMUNIST COUP ON WHOM THERE IS
NOT SUFFICIENT EVIDENCE TO GO TO TRIAL). SUDOMO
CALLED ON RELIGIOUS LEADERS AS WELL AS THE GENERAL PUBLIC TO
ACCEPT THE RELEASED DETAINEES AND HELP TO EASE THEIR
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PAGE 02 JAKART 13144 281004Z

REINTEGRATION INTO INDONESIAN SOCIETY. HE NOTED THAT THE
GOI HAD ALREADY SPENT SOME RP. 900 MILLION ON THE REHABILI-
TATION OF THE DETAINEES.

3. SUDOMO SPECIFIED THAT FOR THE FIRST SIX MONTHS AFTER
RELEASE DETAINEES WOULD BE UNDER HOUSE ARREST, AND FOR THE
NEXT SIX MONTHS THEY WOULD BE RESTRICTED TO THEIR CITY

OR TOWN. AFTER ONE YEAR THEY WOULD BE FREE TO MOVE ABOUT, BUT HE OBSERVED THAT NO RELEASED DETAINEES HAVE YET BEEN ALLOWED TO GO ABROAD EXCEPT FOR THREE INDIVIDUALS WHO HAD ASKED TO MAKE THE MUSLIM PILGRIMAGE TO MECCA. OTHERWISE, HE SAID, RELEASEES HAD THE SAME RIGHTS AS OTHER INDONESIAN CITIZENS EXCEPT THAT THEY WERE NOT ALLOWED TO ENTER GOVERNMENT SERVICE OR WORK IN CERTAIN VITAL PRIVATE COMPANIES.

4. FOLLOWING HIS MEETING WITH PRESIDENT SUHARTO SEPT. 27 SUDOMO REITERATED THAT THE LAST OF THE DETAINEES WOULD BE RELEASED IN 1979 AS PLANNED. HE GAVE THE PRESENT TOTAL OF DETAINEES IN ALL CATEGORIES AS 31,555, NOTING THAT 102 PERSONS HAD BEEN PICKED UP IN THE LAST YEAR WITH THE DISCOVERY THAT THEY HAD BEEN MEMBERS OF PKI (COMMUNIST PARTY OF INDONESIA) CELLS.

5. COMMENT: MOST OF THE INFORMATION ON THE RIGHTS AND RESTRICTIONS GOVERNING NEW RELEASEES HAD BEEN OBTAINED EARLIER BY THE EMBASSY FROM PRIVATE SOURCES, BUT THIS IS THE FIRST PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE STAGES THROUGH WHICH RELEASEES WILL PASS. SUDOMO AND OTHER GOI OFFICIALS CONCERNED WITH THIS PROBLEM APPEAR SINCERE IN THEIR EFFORTS TO PERSUADE THE INDONESIAN PUBLIC TO ACCEPT THE FORMER DETAINEES BACK INTO SOCIETY WITHOUT INCIDENT. WHILE THE TOTAL FIGURE GIVEN FOR THOSE
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PAGE 03 JAKART 13144 281004Z

CURRENTLY DETAINED IS SOMEWHAT HIGHER THAN THE FIGURE GIVEN BY LIM BIAN KIE WHEN HE VISITED THE US EARLIER THIS YEAR, SUDOMO MADE IT PLAIN THAT ALL DETAINEES WOULD BE RELEASED BY THE END OF 1979.
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